

## DEMOCRATIC DISASTERS

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## New Yorkers Faltering

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NEW YORK, Oct. 17.—The

Democrats of New York are on a diet of a disaster a day.

What is happening to them should be happening in New Hampshire, not in the biggest, richest State in the Union where they are the majority party.

Said one disheartened campaign aide, "every time we think we've reached bottom something worse happens."

Their ticket is headed by two able men, who are totally at sea in politics and who have not had time to do their homework on the issues.

Their standard-bearer, Robert M. Morgenthau, former United States Attorney, is so shy that one Democrat, who used to rate Averell Harriman as the most introverted candidate in New York history, said "Morgenthau makes Harriman seem like Billy Graham."

## Tax Charge Clouded

Their candidate for the Senate is James B. Donovan, the lawyer who arranged the Powers-Abel spy exchange and is currently engaged in negotiations for the release of the prisoners taken at the Bay of Pigs invasion, the most unhappy episode in Kennedy foreign policy. He began a haphazard drive against incumbent Senator Javits, Republican, four days ago.

Mr. Morgenthau recently accused Gov. Rockefeller of secretly planning new taxes. A fellow member of the ticket, Arthur Levitt, a candidate for reelection as State controller and a man in a position to know, promptly said he had never heard anything about it.

President Kennedy, who knows that it will not do to lose New York in 1964, came in to lend a hand to the faltering fortunes of his party. His visit resulted mainly in a spate of pictures showing him shaking hands with Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, Mr. Morgenthau's present rival, and very likely his own two years hence.

Professional politicians noted with despair that Mr. Morgenthau was effortlessly epowed out of the presidential car by a Congressman from the Bronx.

Yesterday, Mr. Morgenthau lost a day of campaigning because he was home with a virus.

So the Democratic spotlight shifted again to Mr. Donovan, an extremely relaxed candidate who keeps saying he does not need the job.

## Cites Javits' Votes

Mr. Donovan engaged in a locally televised half-hour debate with Senator Javits.

His manner was engaging. He addressed the voters of New York in conversational even confidential tones as if he were speaking to a jury. He caused Senator Javits, who usually fills pages of the Congressional Record, to change his usual declamatory style and lower his voice by several decibels.

Mr. Donovan was the swash-buckling advocate, who opened up by comparing Senator Javits to a "pinwheel." But as he went on, his arguments seemed to have more buckle than swash.

Mr. Donovan kept saying that

President Kennedy is "entitled" to a Democratic Senator from New York, that he needs Mr. Donovan's vote. Then he went on to destroy his own thesis by pointing out that Senator Javits had voted 74 per cent of the time with the administration.

Then he accused Senator Javits of "wrecking" President Kennedy's medical care program, which came as news to many of his listeners. Senator

Javits explained that he had voted against a medical care bill proposed by the then Senator Kennedy in 1960, but that he was last year a co-sponsor of the administration bill.

Mr. Donovan also accused Senator Javits of working with "the Dixiecrats and the hard-core Republicans," which might have startled Senator Eastland and Senator Goldwater.

Senator Javits' usually anxious smile became a little more genuine with every passage.

When it was over, and someone asked Senator Javits in his dressing room who won, he said pleasantly that "we will know on November 6."

Someone asked Mr. Donovan the same question, as he sat in his dressing room a corridor away. He smiled in his jaunty fashion and said, "is there a question?"